

# PFLAG-T Edmonton

CIRC: 150

June 1997

## PRIDE DAY JUNE 22 '97!

### Pride Parade

June 22, 1997

2:00 pm

Gazebo Park

Calgary Trail South & 83 Ave

PFLAG-T invites all parents, friends, families and supporters of les/bi/gay/trans people to come and walk behind our banner. Show your pride in these wonderful kids, parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, teachers, priests, ministers, doctors, nurses, social workers, police, hockey players, musicians, artists, etc., etc...

### PFLAG-T Picnic

June 22, 1997

4:00 pm

Rollie Miles Park

(Calgary Trail South  
& 106 Ave)

Come one, come all for a good time:

- hot dogs, pop, treats



- watch the "dukes" (gays) versus the "dykes" (lesbians) go "head to head" and "toe to toe" in a fun and novel football game - each team with their own unique rules, of course!
- lucky draw
- games, prizes
- booths

### NEXT SUPPORT MTGS:

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Tuesday August 19, 1997

7:30 pm

Suite 103, 10612 - 124 St

Edmonton, AB

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### NEXT BUSINESS MTG:

Tuesday, September 9th,  
1997

7:00 pm

Suite 103, 10612 - 124 St

Edmonton, AB

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Great Alberta Campout

Monday, September 1, 1997

9:00 am

Red Deer Campsite

Five more volunteers are very much needed for this Alberta PFLAG fundraiser. PFLAG-T Edmonton parents will be staying in a hotel in Red Deer and driving the 5 miles out to

the campsite, arriving at 9:00 am to prepare a brunch which will be served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you can help please phone Ellen at [REDACTED]

### **Scary GLCC Fundraiser**

Friday, June 13

Alley Kat Brewing Company  
9929 - 60 Ave

All the great Pizza you can eat (vegetarian too) and all the pop you want for those who do not want beer!

Phone 403-488-3234

E-mail [glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)

### **WOMONSPACE DANCE**

co-hosted with GLCCE

Saturday, June 21

8:00 pm

Bonnie Doon Community Centre  
9240 - 93 St.

### **PRIDE DAY AT NATALIE BARNEY'S LITERARY SALON**

Friday, June 27, 1997

7:30 until ?

Orlando Books  
10640 Whyte Ave

Come join us at Orlando Books for a Pride Day Celebration set back in time

at Natalie Barney's Literary Salon on Paris' West Bank. Between the wars Paris was a haven for many gay and lesbian artists and they will be making special guest appearances to read from their works. Author Natalie Barney will host one of her notorious literary extravaganzas. She will be joined by many of her famous friends.

You can help make the event a success by coming as your favourite West Banker or Hollywood personality from the same era.

Prizes Will be awarded for best costume, best impersonation, biggest hair, best cross-dressing (male and female), etc.!

### **DECades of PRIDE**

Saturday, June 28, 1997

8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, U of A

The centerpiece to this concert will be the long-awaited reprise of David Maddux's **Boys and Girls With Stories** (the most-often-requested work EVM has ever performed!). This concert will be the culmination of a season of high energy, positive outlook and a sense of PRIDE!

For tickets phone [REDACTED]

## **PFLAG Edmonton**

### **AGAPE 1997**

A celebration on the evening of May 24 at All Saints Cathedral brought together parents, lesbians, bisexuals, gays and gay-positive Christians in a participatory circle ceremony of mutual support. It was wonderful to see Moms and Dads with their lesbian daughters and gay sons-in-law; lesbian couples; gay couples; many, many lesbian, bisexual and gay singles (for now); PFLAG-T members, EVM choir members and a lesbian-bisexual couple.

The ceremony was preceded by a marvellous pot luck prepared, of course, by some of Edmonton's best cooks. As attendees arrived for the evening they were greeted by young men circling the room with large trays of homemade hors d'oeuvres. Delicious! During the meal diners visited back and forth amongst the tables greeting old friends and meeting new people. Parents were there from Edmonton, Westlock and as far away as Calgary and Saskatoon. Wonderful!

We hope this annual event will become semi-annual and continue to grow in numbers and diversity to include other (non-Christian) faiths.

**Alberta Health Authority  
Funds Gay & Lesbian  
Community Centre**

(Courtesy *Perceptions*,  
April '97)

(Grand Prairie) The Peace Gay Association no longer exists but it has been replaced by a new group who are planning on accomplishing great things for lesbians and gays in this northern Alberta community.

The new group calls themselves Queer North Gay and Lesbian Community Association and they have received a grant from the Mistahia Regional Health Authority to develop a community and resource centre. The grant will also help establish a community education project.

The new community centre has established a phone line, a drop-in, resource library, referral services as well as peer counselling. They will also be organizing support and discussion groups for the community and will be organizing a variety of social activities for the community.

Queer North can be reached by calling [REDACTED] or writing [REDACTED]

**Editor's Note:** We wish Queer North GLCC every success and hope that one of

their new support groups will be a PFLAG group!

**Students' Union Funds**

**Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual  
Centre**

(Courtesy *Perceptions*,  
April '97)

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) approved funding in March '97 for a new Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre on the university campus. The USSU also provided a room that the Centre will make into a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students on campus.... The Centre has been granted \$1,215 for the next year...

The Centre was established with three main goals in mind:

- Education...the Centre will provide speakers to various classes and will work in other ways to educate the university community about the issues faced by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.
- Support - for people in their personal coming out process. One-on-one peer counselling will be available as well as various support groups... The Centre also hopes to provide support to families and friends who

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have recently learned someone close is lesbian or gay.

- Advocacy - for lesbian, gay and bisexual issues on campus. "If someone is having problems with a homophobic professor, we will help them to address that problem."

The Centre will also provide social activities and network with other les/bi/gay groups throughout Saskatchewan.

**GMCC Honors Edmonton  
Police Gay & Lesbian  
Liaison Committee  
Member**

(Courtesy *Moving On*,  
Spring '97)

**Colin Vann**

The last of the three Distinguished Alumni has risen to the top of his field. A 1978 graduate of the Law Enforcement program at Grant MacEwan Community College, Colin Vann went on to receive his Business Administration certificate in 1980.

Colin began his career with EPS over 30 years ago and is now a Superintendent in charge of the entire south side of Edmonton.

Speaking at the college on many occasions, Colin has helped the Police and Security students understand the

correlation between their academic studies and their practical applications... Colin is an active member of many committees, including the Police gay and Lesbian Liaison Committee, Alberta Safety Council and the Police Commission and Edmonton Police Service Civilian Awards Program. His leadership and vision to these works have been instrumental in building a strong relationship between the police and the community over the past several years.

**Editor's Note:** Superintendent Colin Vann has recently become Deputy Chief Colin Vann. Wonderful! PFLAG Edmonton offers its congratulations.

#### Homophobia to Cost \$\$\$

(Courtesy *Perceptions*, April '97)

(San Francisco) The City by the Bay has sparked a revolution that could force many businesses and corporations across the United States to provide same-gender spousal benefits for their employees. Last November ('96) city supervisors passed a law requiring all businesses and organizations who do business with the city to offer domestic-partner benefits to gays and lesbians. The

measure was then signed into law by Mayor Willie Brown.

Each year the city does business with approximately 8,000 companies, including some of the largest corporations in the country. They collect millions each year from leases and spend \$1 billion a year on goods and services.

Mayor Brown is unfazed by the complaints he has heard from some of those businesses. "It's very simple. Just don't do business with the city," he said in response to those complaints....

The Catholic Church also protested the new law and asked for an exemption because of their doctrine against gay relationships. Through their Catholic Charities they are the largest provider of housing to people with HIV and AIDS and receive \$5.6 million a year from the city to provide those services. The Church threatened to sue the city but later agreed to allow church employees to designate any member of their household, a spouse, a relative, or an unmarried partner, as eligible for "spousal equivalent benefits."

... San Francisco is not the first city in the US to enact such legislation. Last December Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell signed an executive

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order which requires all companies doing business with that city to provide same-gender spousal benefits... Other cities are interested in San Francisco's new law and have been inquiring about it. Boston, New York, Seattle, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Madison are all investigating the idea. If they all pass similar legislation, most major corporations in the US will have no choice but to provide same-gender spousal benefits.

#### QUEER TESTINGS Delwin Vriend Fundraiser

**Thursday, June 26, 1997**

Edmonton Art Gallery

A double feature (\$5.00):

*It's Elementary:* "In six elementary and middle schools we found a cross section of educators who, despite today's political climate, have come to believe that in fact there are lots of reasons why schools should find ways to address gay issues. They agreed to let our cameras into their classrooms in the hope of inspiring other educators - and parents - to take the next step in their own school communities to teach children respect for all.

- *Double the Trouble;*  
*Double the fun (comedy)*

# It's a Gay Life!

June 1997

## "LOVE, DAD"

Dear Kids,

When I came to this planet to live I brought many gifts with me, but there was one gift that was quite separate from all the rest, a gift so special that it would take a large part of my life to understand it, and then all the rest of my life to completely give it away.

I was excited about this gift because I knew that it made me happy and it would make a lot of other people happy too. But early in life, about the age that you are now, I began to be aware that other people brought gifts also, each one of them priceless, necessary, and filled with joy and happiness. As I grew older, I realized that some people considered their gifts to be better than others; in fact, some of them insisted with loud voices and angry faces that their gifts were right and good and that my gift was bad and evil. It wasn't long until I learned that some of them even hated me for my gift and if I tried to



share it they would make things very unpleasant for me.

I began to be afraid, especially when I learned that some other people whose gifts were like mine had been killed, or put in prisons, or treated very meanly. It was then that I decided to hide my gift rather than face all the trouble.

But everyone was sharing their gifts and I wanted to share mine too. So I put together a phony gift, one

that wasn't real. It only looked like the gifts that other people were sharing, and for a long time I smiled and shared my pretended gift and felt I was doing the right thing because it seemed to be making others happy.

So I kept my real gift hidden well within me and tried not to let anyone see that it was in there. Once in a while someone would look into my eyes with a wondering look and, being afraid that he would discover my gift, I would quickly push it farther within. Then I would look quickly away and get him to talk about my pretend gift instead. That always made me feel bad, because secretly I loved my real gift, I knew it was good, and whenever I would think about it I felt good inside.

About the time I became what you call a grown-up person, I began to be really afraid of the angry people who hated my gift. So I pushed it even farther aback inside of me, back away from the light, farther back into the shadows.

Every time I did that I felt worse and worse.

One day I heard the people at church talking about the evil gifts that some people had, and I knew they were talking about my gift. And even though they were wrong, the more they talked the more afraid I became until done day a friend from the church looked into my eyes when I wasn't watching and suddenly he got a very surprised look on his face, and asked me, "Do you have *that* gift within you?"

I knew he had seen it and I didn't want to tell a lie. "Yes," I said apologetically. "I have *that* gift within me."

My friend didn't say anything. He just went quietly away and I never saw him again. After he left I went within myself and with a feeling of sadness I took the gift to a dark place within me where there was something like a cliff and I threw the gift over into a chasm of darkness and ran very quickly back out of myself and went quietly to church with my friends.

Soon an awful feeling began to grow inside of me. A feeling like cold lead.

Then a strange thing happened. One day I went to the place within me where I used to keep the gift, and was quite surprised to find it sitting right back in its place.

I tan to pick it up and quickly took it back to the cliff and threw it over once again. And again to my surprised, a few days later, there it was back in its place. So once more I threw it over once again. And again to my surprise, a few days later, there it was back in its place. So once more I threw it over the cliff, and again it appeared. This went on and on. Every time I threw it over the cliff, it mysteriously appeared back in its place.

Now I was afraid more than ever that someone would look in my eyes and see the gift. And some of them did. No matter how hard I tried to hide it from them, some of them could see it anyway. Finally one day, a man in the church who reportedly talked a lot with God told me that I would be punished terrible for my gift. He told me what I had to do to get rid of it.

I went home and then within myself, and took my gift and with a trembling heart bashed it into thousands of pieces and hurtled it over the cliff for the last time. I told myself that I had done the right thing. And maybe I would have believed that from then on, but the strange feeling inside of me like cold lead not only came back but began to get bigger and bigger. It wasn't long until it filled up the whole inside of my body

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until suddenly I realized it wasn't cold lead at all, but was more like death, and that I was filled with it completely. I began to cry because I did not want to die, and I wished instead that I had my gift back because even though it caused me trouble, I never once felt like I was going to die when I had it.

But I didn't have it, and the death-like feeling inside of me continued to get stronger.

After a while I decided to travel. I wandered to many different lands, lived in different places, saw lots of different people. Finally I went to a special city, a city so wonderful that many people said it was magic. In that city I met a young prince, and after we became friends he told me that he had a gift for me. When he gave me the gift I was very surprised because it was exactly like the gift I had destroyed within myself a long, long time ago.

"That's my gift!" I cried.

"Yes," he said, "it is for you." "No, you don't understand," I said. "It's exactly like a gift I had a long time ago, but I lost it."

"Then do take this one," he said.

"But you will need it," I said.

"Oh, no," he smiled. "You can keep it. I have many others like it, and every time I

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give one of them away another one appears magically right in its place."

"You give them away," I gasped. "But you're supposed to hide them or you'll be in great danger."

"Oh," he said with a peaceful light in his eyes, "not in this city. This is a magical city where everyone's gift is considered a great and priceless treasure, no matter how different it may be."

Well, the moment he said that I had a sudden urge to look inside of myself because that feeling like death was suddenly beginning to melt. And when I looked I was so surprised to discover my very own gift in the place where it used to be. I ran and picked it up and hugged it like an old friend, and immediately another one, just like it, appeared right in its place, and exactly how that happened I'll never know, but as the prince and I exchanged our gifts, and as I have shared gifts with many others in the magic city, I have come to see that the more we give of our gifts the more we have yet to give. And out of the awareness of such great and endless abundance has come a joy and a happiness that has melted completely that cold, lead feeling like death; and in its place is another feeling like living forever and ever, and every time I give my gift

away, and every time someone shares theirs with me, that feeling gets stronger and stronger. And from that feeling I know now that there is a part of me, much bigger than I ever imagined that will live on and on and on.

My dear children, each of you came to this planet with gifts of your own also. Gifts of great price and value. I hope with all my heart that you will find out what your gifts are. Next I hope that you will share your gifts freely with joy and courage. And **I hope that you will find the peace and understanding that comes from regarding the gifts of every person as being as wonderful as your own.**

Love,  
Dad

### THE HOUSE

I want to tell you about a time - somewhen; and a place - somewhere.

Somewhen and somewhere there is a large city. Like all large cities it contains many people, many buildings. On its streets and in its buildings many things happen.

Somewhere in this city is a house. This house is a very special house and it is lived in by some very special people.

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This house is called the House of Hope.

Like all cities, this city has areas in it that seem to have endless blocks of sameness - house after house after house of the same thing. Like all cities, this city has houses in it that are absolute monstrosities - nightmares of twisted staircases, rotting porches and broken windows - places where it seems only evil can flourish.

But the House of Hope is not like any of these. There are a lot of things different about it - it is painted in bright rainbow colours, it is not built in a line with its neighbours. Instead it pushes itself boldly out of line as if to say "Here I am!"

Naturally, in a house like this, you wouldn't expect to find the people living in it to be exactly like other people in the city. Naturally, in a house like this, you would expect to meet people whose thoughts are like a rainbow of colour. Naturally you would expect to meet people whose thoughts are a little different, who are not in a perfect line with their neighbours, who push themselves boldly out of line and say "Here I am!"

Some of the people who live in this house sit and stand and dance in the Dance Room. The House of Hope really is the people who are in this

room. There are others in this house who live in the basement but they can't feel the firm stone foundations of this house. They think it is made of too much paper so they sit in the basement and think they hold it up.

Upstairs the others dance away but the ones in the basement won't come join the dance. Sometimes they even try to stop the dance when they think the walls and floors are shaking too much. Then there are some in this house who want to join the dance very badly. Sometimes they will run into the dance room and they will dance quickly through. (Sometimes so quickly that you don't even see them!) But then they get scared that the walls and floors are shaking too much so they run down to help the ones in the basement hold the house up. But soon they hear the call of the dance and run up, down, up, down, up, down.

Yet others might join the dance but they are too busy skipping up one street and down another. They stop and visit at almost every house on the way.<sup>1</sup> Others might join the dance but they never learned how to dance so they sit in their little houses and just pretend they don't hear the call of the dance at all. Yet others who might join the dance will take two steps out

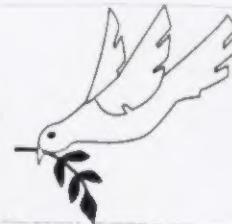
of their house, but they get nervous and take two steps back.

Then there are those who live in those long blocks of houses that are all the same. Most of these really do wish the dance would just stop and that the House of Hope would be just like them.

But aren't you glad the dance goes on? Come won't you join the dance? Come, dance with us into a new and brighter future.

by Lyle Millang

(Spring 1990, Saskatoon, Sk)



### **Churches Move to Accept Diversity of Sexual Orientation**

#### Anglican Bishops to Apologize to Gays

(Courtesy The Edmonton Journal, May 17, 1997)

At a recent national meeting, a majority of the bishops called for an apology to gays and lesbians for the church's insensitivity and hostility, and for changes to 1979 guidelines that forbid the ordinations of practicing gays and lesbians....a

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majority...said the church should be "more accepting and affirming of models of family other than the nuclear family."...

The United Church of Canada is the only major Christian denomination in Canada to accept the ordination of practicing homosexuals. Reform and Reconstructionist Jews are also among the few other religious groups that accept practicing homosexuals as clergy.

#### Reform Rabbi Group OK's Gay Marriages

(Courtesy PFLAG Detroit, June, 1996 Newsletter)

Philadelphia - Rabbis of Reform Judaism voted to support civil marriage rights for gay people and to oppose governmental efforts to ban such marriages.

The vote of the Central Conference of AmericanRabbis comes as state legislatures nationwide debate same-sex marriage and provides a valuable endorsement for gay advocates...

"The battle for homosexual rights today is the modern parallel for black struggle in the '60's," said Rabbi Jerome Davidson of Temple Beth El in Great Neck, N.Y. "We were there then and we should be there now."